United Nations S/2000/1024

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 24 October 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 23 August to 22 September 2000.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (23 August-22 September), there were approximately 45,000 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) deployed in theatre, with no major changes in deployments since the last report.

Security

2. In the run-up to and during the elections held on 24 September in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, KFOR maintained a safe and secure environment in the province.

3. The situation in Kosovo remained tense over the reporting period, with a number of violent incidents related either to ethnic tension or to the forthcoming municipal elections.

4. Incidents of harassment and intimidation continued, the majority directed against Kosovo Serbs. There were a number of arson attacks on unoccupied Kosovo Serb houses in Orahovac (Multinational brigade (MNB (South)) at the end of August, although there were no injuries. On 17 September, two grenade attacks in Gnjilane (MNB (East)) resulted in the death of one Kosovo Serb. On 20 September, further grenades were thrown into two Kosovo Serb properties in Gnjilane, but without causing injuries.

5. Mitrovica (MNB (North)) remained tense throughout the period, with several reported incidents of intimidation against non-Kosovo Serbs in the north of the town. In the aftermath of the closure by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) of the Zvecan smelter plant near Mitrovica, between 100 and 3,000 Kosovo Serbs held regular demonstrations outside the plant. All gatherings were calm, the crowds dispersing peacefully on each occasion.

6. On 18 September KFOR troops conducted a successful search operation in Gracanica (MNB (Centre)) which resulted in the detention of six people for questioning by UNMIK. During the operation, weapons, ammunition and a quantity of explosives and detonators were seized by KFOR troops.

7. During the last week of August there were a number of incidents of violence and intimidation against members of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) party. On 10 September a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the house of the regional LDK spokesman in Prizren in MNB (South). There were no injuries.

8. On 23 August, two KFOR soldiers were wounded when rifle grenades were fired from a passing car in the town of Vucitrn (MNB (North)). The attack was thought to be linked to an earlier incident when two Kosovo Albanians were shot by KFOR soldiers. In response to the attack, KFOR increased local force protection.

9. On 19 September, a KFOR checkpoint north of Djakovica (MNB West)) was attacked by automatic weapons fire. KFOR troops returned fire, but the perpetrators escaped by car. There were no injuries.

10. Throughout the period, KFOR troops continued to uncover and confiscate caches of weapons, ammunition and explosives. Confiscated weapons are being destroyed as part of the commercial destruction programme. Owing to technical problems with the furnace at the Obilic factory, only 65 weapons were destroyed between 20 August and 19 September. Destruction of weapons there recommenced on 29 September. The total number of weapons destroyed since the commercial weapons destruction programme began on 19 April is 4,163.

Illegal border activity

11. KFOR troops continued to provide appropriate control of Kosovo's internal boundaries and external borders, and recognized crossing points. All but two of the recognized crossing points within each MNB into the ground safety zone remain closed. On 3 September, three Kosovo Albanians were arrested for attempting illegally to cross the border at the Morina South border crossing point in MNB (South). Six others were arrested on 5 September for a similar attempt.

12. There were continued reports of paramilitary activities being conducted by the "Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac" in and around Dobrosin in the ground safety zone.

Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) — arms embargo

13. Although KFOR operations continue to result in weapons seizures, there have been no reported violations of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998).

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

14. The number of incidents of non-compliance by the Kosovo Protection Corps decreased over the period, with only six cases reported, mainly related to illegal weapon and ammunition offences. To date, the Joint Security Executive Committee has considered 65 cases of acts of non-compliance by the Corps.

15. The engagement of the Kosovo Protection Force in humanitarian work projects increased over the period, and at the end of the reporting period there were almost 400 members involved in 30 projects.

16. The Army (VJ) and security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remain generally compliant with the terms of the military technical agreement and continue to be cooperative in their dealings with KFOR.

Cooperation with international organizations

17. KFOR continued to provide regular assistance on request to international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo on a daily basis.

18. As noted above, KFOR ensured that UNMIK was given comprehensive assistance during the conduct of the elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

19. On 19 September 2,449 police officers of the Kosovo Police School were deployed throughout Kosovo in support of the UNMIK police force.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

20. During the month of August there were 12,729 organized voluntary returns, mostly Kosovo Albanian. Since the beginning of January 2000, there have been a total of 66,039 organized returns, again mostly Kosovo Albanian. Approximately 200,000 Kosovo Serbs and 30,000 to 40,000 other ethnic minorities remain displaced within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Outlook

21. The security situation in the province is expected to remain relatively stable but tense, with low-level violence likely to increase in the run-up to the elections scheduled for 28 October.